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RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1952

RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1952

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*CAPT. T. LORT-PHILLIPS (*Chairman until May 1952*).

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MR. D. H. WILMER.

MR. H. F. WILSON.

* Membership of Council ceased May 1952.

† Membership of Committee ceased.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

D. J. N. McNAB M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

R. A. UPSTONE, Cert. R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

W. W. DYSON, Cert. R.S.I.

S. MAHER, Cert. R.S.I. (*resigned 13th February, 1952*).

E. M. ORGAN, Cert. R.S.I. (*resigned 31st March, 1952*).

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. R.S.I. (*appointed 1st June, 1952*).

RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1952

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

I submit for your information and consideration my sixth Annual Report on the health and circumstances of your district.

Natural and Social Conditions

The Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge forms the south western boundary of the administrative county of Hampshire. It extends for some sixteen miles and contains the whole course of the Hampshire Avon until it reaches the boundary of the coastal town of Christchurch. To the east it includes a part of the New Forest, to the west it is contiguous with the heaths of Dorset, to the north it abuts on the chalk downs of Wiltshire, and to the south it comes within a mile of the sea. The river valley is fertile but there is much barren heath land on either side.

Geologically the district is in the main made up of the Eocene formation known as the Bracklesham beds and the Bagshot sands.

The main industry is agriculture with particular emphasis on dairy farming. There is, however, a varied selection of light industry together with a large foundry producing motor car parts, and a large aircraft factory which draws most of its labour from outside the district.

The District contains sixteen parishes and has a rising population which has now reached an estimated total of 24,060. The total area comprises 90,140 acres, approximately 140 square miles.

RAINFALL FOR 1952.

| | <i>ins.</i> | | <i>ins.</i> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| January .. | 2.47 | July .. | 0.20 |
| February .. | 0.41 | August .. | 4.49 |
| March .. | 3.12 | September .. | 4.74 |
| April .. | 2.09 | October .. | 5.31 |
| May .. | 2.80 | November .. | 4.42 |
| June .. | 1.04 | December .. | 3.05 |

TOTAL: 34.14 ins.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

AREA: 90,140 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1952, 24,060.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 7,494.

RATEABLE VALUE at 1.10.52: £152, 043.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, 1952-53: £607 16s. 7d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952: (as supplied by the Registrar-General):

| | | | | <i>Total</i> | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| LIVE BIRTHS | | | | | | |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | 391 | 206 | 185 |
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | 360 | 184 | 176 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | 31 | 22 | 9 |
| STILL BIRTHS. | | | | | | |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | — |
| DEATHS. | | | | | | |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | 299 | 147 | 152 |
| INFANT MORTALITY. | | | | | | |
| <i>(Deaths under 1 year of age).</i> | | | | | | |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 8 | 3 |
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | — |
| <i>(Deaths under 4 weeks of age).</i> | | | | | | |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| MATERNAL MORTALITY. | | | | | | |
| Deaths from maternal causes | | | | 1 | — | 1 |

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

| | <i>Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District</i> | <i>England and Wales</i> |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| BIRTH RATE (Comparability Factor 1.08) | | |
| per 1,000 estimated population .. | 16.25 | 15.3 |
| After application of Comparability Factor | 17.5 | |
| STILL-BIRTH RATE. | | |
| per 1,000 population | 0.25 | 0.35 |
| DEATH RATE (Comparability Factor 0.79) | | |
| per 1,000 population | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| after application of Comparability Factor | 9.8 | |

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

(under 1 year of age):

All causes per 1,000 live births .. 28.1 27.6

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

(1 death only)

per 1,000 total (live and still) births 2.5 0.72

SPECIAL CAUSES:

Death Rate per 1,000 population:

Typhoid and paratyphoid .. — 0.00

Whooping Cough — 0.00

Diphtheria — 0.00

Influenza 0.08 0.04

Smallpox — 0.00

Acute Poliomyelitis including

Polioencephalitis — 0.01

Pneumonia 0.58 0.47

Tuberculosis 0.04 0.24

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

(Since the District was formed in 1932).

| Year | Popu- lation | Ringwood & Fordingbridge | | | England and Wales | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------|------|-------------------|------|------|
| | | I.M.R. | B.R. | D.R. | I.M.R. | B.R. | D.R. |
| 1932 | 18,400 | 59.8 | 15.4 | 12.6 | 65 | 15.3 | 12 |
| 1936 | 18,640 | 48.2 | 13.3 | 13.1 | 59 | 14.8 | 12.1 |
| 1940 | 20,430 | 45.1 | 14.1 | 13.2 | 55 | 14.6 | 14.3 |
| 1944 | 19,520 | 25.3 | 16.2 | 12.6 | 46 | 17.6 | 11.6 |
| 1948 | 22,270 | 28 | 20.29 | 10.8 | 34 | 17.9 | 10.8 |
| 1949 | 22,590 | 16 | 18.64 | 12.6 | 32 | 16.7 | 11.7 |
| 1950 | 23,220 | 22 | 17.6 | 12.8 | 30 | 15.8 | 11.6 |
| 1951 | 23,970 | 12 | 17.3 | 12.5 | 29 | 15.5 | 12.5 |
| 1952 | 24,060 | 28 | 16.2 | 12.4 | 27 | 15.3 | 11.3 |

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | | | | | Males | Females |
|-----|--|----|----|----|-------|---------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | .. | .. | .. | — | — |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | .. | .. | .. | — | 1 |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | .. | .. | .. | — | — |
| 4. | Diphtheria | .. | .. | .. | — | — |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | .. | .. | .. | — | — |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | .. | .. | .. | — | — |
| 7. | Acute poliomyelitis | .. | .. | .. | — | — |
| 8. | Measles | .. | .. | .. | — | — |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | .. | .. | .. | 1 | — |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 3 |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | .. | .. | .. | — | 5 |

| | | | | | | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> |
|--------------------|---|----|----|----|----|--------------|----------------|
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm uterus | .. | .. | | | — | — |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | | | | | 13 | 17 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | .. | .. | .. | | — | 2 |
| 16. | Diabetes | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 2 |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | | | .. | | 25 | 22 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | .. | .. | .. | | 21 | 14 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | .. | .. | .. | | 1 | 2 |
| 20. | Other heart diseases | .. | .. | .. | | 29 | 41 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | .. | .. | .. | | 7 | 5 |
| 22. | Influenza | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 2 |
| 23. | Pneumonia | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 8 |
| 24. | Bronchitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | | | .. | | — | — |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | .. | .. | .. | | 1 | — |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | .. | .. | .. | | 1 | 2 |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | .. | .. | .. | | 2 | 2 |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | .. | .. | .. | | 6 | — |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | .. | .. | .. | | — | 1 |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | .. | .. | .. | | 2 | 3 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | | | .. | | 17 | 11 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | .. | .. | .. | | 3 | 1 |
| 34. | All other accidents | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 4 |
| 35. | Suicide | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | — |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | .. | .. | .. | | — | — |
| TOTAL (all causes) | | | | | | 147 | 152 |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The general prevalence of infectious disease was extremely low throughout the year.

The incidence of pneumonia has shown an increase, the notification rate being nearly two and a half times the national figure. The explanation lies in the large number of elderly people who live in the area and who are naturally more prone to chest complaints. The death rate however from pneumonia was only a little above the national figure.

For the third successive year no case of diphtheria has been notified.

One case only of poliomyelitis was notified. This was a school-boy aged 5 residing at Holmsley who had a severe attack necessitating treatment for a time in a mechanical respirator. His life was saved but he was left with considerable paralysis.

| Notifications | Number | Rate per 1,000 population | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Ringwood & Fordingbridge | England and Wales |
| Scarlet Fever | 4 | 0.16 | 1.53 |
| Whooping Cough | 35 | 1.45 | 2.61 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | 0.01 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 0.04 | 0.14 |
| Measles | 46 | 1.91 | 8.86 |
| Pneumonia | 45 | 1.87 | 0.72 |
| Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .. | 1 | 0.04 | 0.06 |
| (Non-Paralytic) .. | — | — | 0.03 |
| Meningococcal infection .. | — | — | 0.03 |
| Malaria (contracted abroad) | 1 | — | — |
| Food Poisoning | 8 | 0.33 | 0.13 |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of children immunised showed a slight increase on last year's figure, but was still below that for the three previous years. There has been a sharp rise in the number of refresher doses administered, largely due to the treatment of schoolchildren at school by school medical officers. There is no doubt that the continued absence of diphtheria from our midst is making it difficult for many to appreciate the importance of having their children immunised. Intensive propaganda preferably by word of mouth is necessary to maintain a reasonable level of immunisation. This propaganda is carried out by health visitors and by medical officers of child welfare clinics. It is thought likely that the general practitioner, who is potentially the best propagandist of all, is now so busy that he can spare less time to this measure than formerly. All mothers receive a circular concerning and recommending immunisation when their child is nearly of the age when he is due to be done.

During the year 338 children were immunised for the first time, of these 285 were under the age of five and 53 were over five. In addition, 389 children previously immunised received refresher doses.

The proportion of children born within the previous twelve months who have been immunised is 53.4%. Approximately 69% of children under the age of fifteen have at one time or another been immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There has been no change in the arrangements for the care of tuberculous patients. Those who live south of Fordingbridge are seen by the Chest Physician at Christchurch, and those in Fordingbridge or north of it are seen at Salisbury. For those requiring sanatorium treatment the period of waiting is now a matter of weeks only, and immediate admission can often be arranged if necessary.

The general trend in this disease has shown a most hopeful turn in recent years and there now are at least three drugs in regular use which may produce a beneficial effect on the course of the disease; many cases, of the types formerly thought to have a poor prognosis, have an immensely better outlook today. The national death rate has nearly halved in the last three years.

The total number of cases on the register at 31.12.52 was 191.

| <i>Pulmonary</i> | | <i>Non-Pulmonary</i> | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
| 73 | 66 | 37 | 15 |

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1947-1952.

| | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| | <i>Pulmonary</i> | | <i>Non-Pulmonary</i> | | <i>Pulmonary</i> | | <i>Non-Pulmonary</i> | |
| | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> |
| 1947 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 1948 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 1949 | 12 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 1950 | 17 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| 1951 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 1952 | 11 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

AFTER CARE IN TUBERCULOSIS.

The Christchurch, Lymington and District T.B. Care Committee, formed last year under the chairmanship of Lady Manners, has had its first full year of active work in providing help for tuberculous patients over and above that available from statutory sources. Additional nourishment, principally milk, clothing, the payment of pressing debts, and even the setting up of a patient in a new trade more suited to his health, have all come within the scope of the Committee's activities. The co-operation of other voluntary and ex-service bodies has been successfully enlisted. The Committee has expended some £350 on the years work and, apart from a grant of £100 from the County Council, this money has been made available from voluntary sources and by the sale of the Christmas Seals published by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. If this valuable work is to be maintained and extended even greater efforts will have to be made to increase voluntary contributions, and in particular to sell the Christmas Seals.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The Mass Radiography Unit, under the direction of Dr. J. Stuart Robertson, again visited the district and conducted sessions at Ringwood and at Fordingbridge for three weeks during September.

The following table, showing the work carried out, together with the findings, has been kindly supplied by the Medical Director.

| | RINGWOOD | | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> | <i>Boys</i> | <i>Girls</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Total number x-rayed .. | 495 | 643 | 50 | 44 | 1232 |
| Recalled for Large Film | 8 | 25 | 1 | 2 | 36 |
| Recalled for Clinical exam. | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| No action necessary, or no abnormality detected .. | 7 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 32 |
| Referred to Chest Clinic.. | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Referred to Private Doctor or to Hospital .. | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Did not attend for Large Film | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |

| | FORDINGBRIDGE | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> | <i>Boys</i> | <i>Girls</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Total number x-rayed .. | 253 | 284 | 18 | 12 | 567 |
| Recalled for Large Film | 4 | 10 | 1 | — | 15 |
| Recalled for Clinical exam. | 1 | 5 | — | — | 6 |
| No action necessary, or N.A.D. | 3 | 4 | 1 | — | 8 |
| Referred to Chest Clinic.. | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Referred to Private Doctor or to Hospital .. | 1 | 4 | — | — | 5 |

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory, now situated at Gloucester Road, Boscombe, is available for the bacteriological examination of specimens of epidemiological interest. It remains under the direction of Dr. G. J. G. King our valued colleague in epidemiological matters.

The following list of specimens originating from the District during the year has been kindly supplied by the Director.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Nose and throat .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Sputa .. | .. | .. | 514 |
| Faeces .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Other human .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Water .. | .. | .. | 43 |
| Milk .. | .. | .. | 37 |
| Ice cream .. | .. | .. | 34 |
| Other sanitary .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| | | | — |
| | | | 637 |

This list includes specimens received from Linford Sanatorium.

WATER SUPPLIES.

With the exception of one village the District is supplied with water from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company, whose works are situated in the Borough of Christchurch. The Company draws its raw water from the Avon and treats it by slow sand filtration and chloramination. The resultant water is of satisfactory purity and the supply is constant and adequate.

Breamore is now the only large area not supplied with main water and this because of a dispute over the cost of supply between this Council and the Water Company. A stalemate appears to have been reached and it may be that the Water Company will direct its activities elsewhere, and the opportunity of providing a pure water supply in Breamore will be lost for years. The eventual cost of providing the water may prove higher than that now proposed. The position is one of concern in view of the number of polluted wells in the Breamore area.

During the year 45 samples were taken from premises not supplied with main water; 16 of these were found to be polluted. Statutory notices were served in connexion with 6 premises.

The following list gives the number of premises, in parishes, supplied with main water as recorded by the Water Company, together with a number of converted war-time huts supplied through central meters.

| <i>Parish</i> | <i>Dwellings supplied direct</i> | <i>Approximate population supplied</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Martin | 81 | 283 |
| Rockbourne | 77 | 269 |
| Whitsbury | 59 | 206 |
| Breamore | nil | nil |
| Hale | 117 | 409 |
| Woodgreen | 111 | 388 |
| Damerham | 96 | 336 |
| Fordingbridge | 1025 plus 3 huts | 3598 |
| Harbridge and Ibsley | 124 plus 125 huts | 871 |
| Ellingham | 85 plus 15 huts | 350 |
| St. Leonards and St. Ives | 423 plus 5 huts | 1498 |
| Ringwood | 2012 | 7042 |
| Burley | 445 | 1557 |
| Hurn | 30 plus 95 huts | 437 |
| Sopley | 185 plus 69 huts | 889 |
| Christchurch East | 715 plus 232 huts | 3314 |

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No alteration has taken place during the year at the Ringwood Sewage Works. The usual difficulties have been experienced in the disposal, by land irrigation, of the large volume of effluent from the settling tanks, particularly during prolonged rainy spells.

Your consultants have continued to examine the position with a view to preparing a scheme for full treatment of the Ringwood sewage.

Night soil from Fordingbridge continues to be composted at Ringwood.

Work on the Fordingbridge scheme, employing direct labour, has proceeded steadily and uneventfully throughout the year. Excellent progress has been made and there is now every prospect that this long overdue scheme will be in full operation before the end of 1953.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Milk production in the area is supervised by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Retail Distribution is supervised by officers of this Council. Pasteurisation plants are the responsibility of the County Council and on its behalf your officers supervise the one plant which exists in the District. Samples are sent regularly to the Laboratory to check the efficiency of the pasteurisation. The plant is efficient and is satisfactorily operated.

The following details concerning milk production in the area have been kindly supplied by Mr. F. B. Russ, Milk Regulations Officer of the Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

| | 31.12.49 | 31.12.50 | 31.12.51 | 31.12.52 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Registered Producers | 302 | 302 | 293 | 285 |
| Holders of T.T. Licences | 88 | 104 | 113 | 135 |
| Holders of Accredited Licences | 48 | 49 | 44 | 46 |

The progressive rise in the number of T.T. licences is most gratifying but it will be noted that there are over one hundred producers of non-designated milks, and still 46 producers of milk designated by the discredited title "Accredited." Fortunately no fresh Accredited licences have been permitted to be issued since September 1952 and the title itself will cease to be legal in October 1954. It is to be hoped that by that time the majority of such herds will have become T.T. herds. The overall proportion of Attested herds in this area of the country is approximately 50%, so it will be seen that this District is just below the average with 47%.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

The position at the slaughter house is unchanged. The premises remain ill suited for bulk slaughtering but little more can be made of them with the limited space available. Your inspectors carry out their meat inspection duties under difficulties and normally only after slaughtering has ceased owing to lack of space.

4,166 animals were slaughtered during the year, an increase on the previous year's total largely accounted for by a rise in the number of sheep and pigs.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Thorough inspection of all carcasses is carried out by your inspectors at the slaughterhouse. As a result of this inspection over 11 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption; this was a 26% decrease on last year's total despite the increase in killing. Tuberculosis remains the major cause of condemnation, $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons were condemned from this cause alone.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1952.

| | <i>Cattle excl. Cows</i> | <i>Cows</i> | <i>Calves</i> | <i>Sheep and Lambs</i> | <i>Pigs</i> |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Number killed | 689 | 279 | 538 | 2019 | 641 |
| Number inspected | 689 | 279 | 538 | 2019 | 641 |
| ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS: | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned .. | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 19 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. | 290 | 209 | 8 | 81 | 103 |
| Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .. | 42.38% | 76.7% | 1.8% | 4.2% | 19.03% |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY: | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned .. | 3 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. | 69 | 75 | — | — | 21 |
| Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis | 10.4% | 27.2% | — | — | 3.2% |

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The County Council is the sampling authority and the following details of substances sampled within this area during the year ended 31st March, 1953, have been kindly supplied by the Chief Inspector, Mr. C. O. Perry.

| <i>Article</i> | <i>Number Taken</i> | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|----|----|-----|
| Butter and other Fats | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Drugs | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Meat Products | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| Spirits | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Milk | .. | .. | .. | 77 |
| Other Foods | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | 102 |

All the samples proved to be genuine, and the 77 samples of milk contained an average of 3.88% milk fat and 8.84% non-fatty solids.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Your inspectors have continued to devote a considerable proportion of their time to the routine supervision of food premises. In this connexion much valuable propaganda on hygienic food handling is conveyed to employers and employees, and in a scattered area such as ours this is probably as effective a method of instruction as any. The spoken word, addressed to the man on the job, is worth any amount of written advice.

The general standards in your food premises are, on the whole, satisfactory and your shopkeepers aware of their responsibilities to the public.

Purveyors of food in the Ringwood Market are, apart from greengrocers and fruiterers, few and they are closely supervised. No need for action has yet been found and the byelaws relating to the handling of food in the open air are being observed.

ICE CREAM.

Routine sampling of ice cream for subjection to the Methylene Blue Test has engaged less attention since it has been found that methods of manufacture and handling have improved so much in recent years, that it is becoming uncommon to obtain an unsatisfactory report; moreover the departure without replacement of one sanitary inspector has made it difficult to spare an officer for regular routine sampling. There seems no doubt that the attention devoted to this product by health departments throughout the country since the war has produced results.

The following table shows the results of the Methylene Blue Test in this District since 1947.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>No. of samples</i> | <i>Grade 1</i> SATISFACTORY | <i>Grade 2</i> | <i>Grade 3</i> UNSATISFACTORY | <i>Grade 4</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1947 | 26 | 30.8% | 23.0% | 30.8% | 15.4% |
| 1948 | 53 | 41.5% | 24.5% | 17.0% | 17.0% |
| 1949 | 196 | 53.1% | 16.3% | 15.8% | 14.8% |
| 1950 | 140 | 79.3% | 10.7% | 7.1% | 2.9% |
| 1951 | 116 | 92.2% | 3.5% | 2.6% | 1.7% |
| 1952 | 32 | 96.9% | 3.1% | — | — |

A number of samples taken this year could not be tested owing to technical difficulties with cooling in the laboratory.

FOOD POISONING.

Two separate incidents involving the notification of eight cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

In one an aged couple living on their own suffered from food poisoning symptoms. They had been ill for some days before seeking medical attention and the delay made it impossible to ascertain the source of infection.

In the other a number of girls living under canvas at a Women's Junior Air Corps Camp were involved. The cause of the outbreak was found to be meat which had been cooked, partly consumed and stored under unsatisfactory conditions; when it was reheated and served again food poisoning was caused. The outbreak again brought to notice the dangers which may arise from the consumption of previously cooked food which has been stored under unsatisfactory conditions, and in the handling of which hygienic precautions may have been relaxed.

SCHOOLS.

There has been no change of note in the nineteen schools in the District, the vast majority of which are old buildings with few modern facilities. In only three is there waterborne sanitation and hand washing facilities are in the main primitive. Hot water is unknown. Overcrowding is a feature of those in the more urbanized areas.

School meals are available at all schools, in most cases cooked in kitchens on the school premises, and consumed in the classrooms in which the children work all day.

CHILD WELFARE.

Five child welfare centres are conducted by the County Council throughout the area, staffed by Assistant County Medical Officers and by the Health Visitor in whose area the centre lies. The administration of each centre, and the sale and distribution of welfare foods and medicaments is carried out by a voluntary committee of local ladies whose services are indispensable. We owe a considerable debt of gratitude to these public spirited helpers.

| <i>Child Welfare Centre</i> | <i>Place</i> | <i>Time</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Breamore | Woodgreen Hall | First Thursday in month at 2.30 p.m. |
| Fordingbridge | Victoria Rooms | First and Third Tuesday in month at 2.30 p.m. |
| Ringwood | Conway Hall | First and Third Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m. |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| Bransgore | Harrow Hill Hut | First and Third Thursdays in month at 2.30 p.m. |
| Hurn | Village Hall | Second and Fourth Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m. |

A further centre is conducted at Burley by a local general practitioner, largely for the benefit of his own patients.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

Six cases were considered for action under the above Section during the year, but in only one case was it necessary to seek compulsory powers. The others were dealt with by the provision of home helps or by admission to hospital.

The old lady for whom compulsory powers were sought was aged 85 and was living alone in such conditions that her own health was seriously endangered. She surrounded herself with a mass of rotting food and caused a serious plague of flies and blowflies. Every possible action was taken in the first place to persuade her to mend her ways and then to encourage her to enter an old people's home voluntarily. All efforts failed and finally she had to be dealt with under the 1951 amendment to the Act, and compelled to enter an old people's home.

THORNEY HILL COMPOUND.

There has been no change in the conditions at this Compound except that there has been a further small reduction in the number of families living there, seven as against nine at the end of the previous year.

In June, I collaborated with Mr. O. E. Brown, Chief Sanitary Inspector, New Forest Rural District Council, in presenting a joint paper on the living conditions and characteristics of New Forest compound dwellers at a sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute held at Christchurch.

HOUSING.

The housing problem shows no evidence of becoming any less acute. The waiting list stands at 760 and has hardly decreased in the year despite the completion of 119 Council and 18 private houses. We still have some 373 families living in ex-service huts. I have previously expressed my fears about the prolonged use of this type of low-rent, sub-standard housing, not from its effect on the health of the tenants since there is little evidence of harm, but from its social effects and the difficulties that many of the inhabitants

will have in settling down in a normal environment and in adjusting themselves to the rent of the modern council house. I still feel most strongly that all efforts should be directed towards the cessation of the use of hutted accommodation. It may have been forced on us in the first place but we should not view its continued use with equanimity.

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. on Housing Waiting List 31.12.52...approx. | 760 |
| No. of Council Houses completed in 1952 .. | 119 |
| No. of Private Houses completed in 1952 .. | 18 |

Dwellings administered by the Council at 31.12.52:—

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Permanent Houses | 551 |
| Prefabs | 50 |
| Requisitioned Houses (family units) | 29 |
| Huts (family units) | 373 |

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

1. *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—*

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 63 |
| No. of inspections made for the purpose | 250 |
| No. of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 45 |
2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—*

| | |
|---|----|
| No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. | 13 |
|---|----|
3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—*

| | |
|---|-----|
| <i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i> | |
| No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| <i>Proceedings under the Public Health Act:—</i> | |
| No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 7 |
| <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—</i> | |
| No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 6 |
| No. of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted | 3 |

HURN AIRPORT.

The airport, so far as its passenger activities are concerned, continues to be used almost entirely as a diversion airport and for this purpose it fulfils adequately the requirement of being normally free from adverse landing conditions. The need for such an airport is even greater now than formerly, in spite of improved aids to landing, owing to the coming into service of jet air liners which must land without undue delay owing to their high rate of fuel consumption, particularly at low altitudes.

As in former years passenger activities at the airport were largely confined to the first two and the last three months of the year.

Medical inspection of passengers has again been carried out in the daytime largely by Dr. W. D. Higson with occasional relief by Dr. C. Conyers Morrell and Dr. D. MacIntyre. I have again taken most of the calls occurring out of office hours. It has now become the custom for a medical officer to attend as a routine only for aircraft arriving from Asia, Africa and South America, though at times of intense diversion activity aircraft arrive from all over the world at short intervals, and it is normally necessary for a medical officer to be present constantly in order to avoid the possibility of delay to passengers.

Airport traffic showed an increase over the previous year, principally due to a spell of very bad weather in December.

No case of the five "Convention" diseases arrived at the airport during the year. One treated case of suspected tick typhus was landed. The diagnosis was not bacteriologically confirmed and the man was practically well on arrival.

The Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1952 came into force on 1st October, 1952. One of their most notable provisions was the abolition of the Personal Declaration of Origin and Health which had formerly provided a record of the passenger's recent movements and the address to which he was proceeding. This document had made it possible to assess the likelihood of exposure to infection prior to arrival and had supplied a means of tracing the passenger in the event of infection subsequently developing among his fellow travellers. In substitution there is an Aircraft Declaration of Health which is merely a statement by the Commander of the aircraft giving details of any infectious diseases, or conditions likely to lead to the spread of disease, occurring during the voyage. The procedure now laid down for the tracing of contacts from any aircraft is through a radio appeal and a notice in the press, which is surely a very hit and miss method of tracing dangerous infections.

ARRIVALS, 1952.

| <i>Month</i> | <i>No. of aircraft</i> | <i>No. of crew</i> | <i>No. of British Passengers</i> | <i>No. of Alien Passengers</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| January | 4 | 24 | 36 | — |
| February | 4 | 22 | 3 | 6 |
| March | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| April | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| May | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| June | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| July | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| August | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| September | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| October | 3 | 23 | 54 | 16 |
| November | 12 | 69 | 138 | 98 |
| December | 66 | 509 | 768 | 638 |
| TOTAL | 89 | 647 | 999 | 758 |

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT.

The following figures showing the state of employment and unemployment in the area served by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Employment Exchanges have been kindly supplied by Mr. E. J. Birden, the Manager of the Ringwood Employment Exchange. The area includes a small part of Dorset close to the Hampshire boundary but does not include the parishes of Hurn, Sopley and Christchurch East which are served by the Christchurch Employment Exchange. The unemployment figures do not include young persons under the age of 18 years.

1. *Unemployment.* The number of unemployed persons over 18 years of age registered at Ringwood and Fordingbridge Employment Exchanges during 1952 were as follows :—

| | <i>Men</i> | <i>Women</i> |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| January | 52 | 18 |
| February | 59 | 19 |
| March | 57 | 15 |
| April | 55 | 23 |
| May | 43 | 18 |
| June | 39 | 20 |
| July | 33 | 14 |
| August | 52 | 22 |
| September | 38 | 18 |
| October | 53 | 11 |
| November | 78 | 22 |
| December | 70 | 18 |

2. *Insured employees.* The figures are estimates based partly on the number of national insurance cards exchanged in the quarter beginning June, and partly on returns rendered by employers of five or more workpeople showing the numbers of insurance cards held by them. Adjustments have been made, so far as information is available, in respect of national insurance cards held by employers in an Employment Exchange area (or group of areas) other than that in which the persons concerned are employed.

| <i>Industry or Service</i> | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| INDUSTRIES | | | |
| Agricultural or Horticultural | 978 | 113 | 1091 |
| Forestry | 126 | 11 | 137 |
| Engineering | 420 | 46 | 466 |
| Motor repairers and garages | 167 | 11 | 178 |
| Manufacture of motor vehicles and cycles | 72 | 6 | 78 |
| Non-metalliferous mining products | 75 | 6 | 81 |
| Clay, sand, gravel and chalk pit quarrying | 95 | 1 | 96 |
| Food and tobacco manufacture | 57 | 43 | 100 |
| Timber (sawmilling, etc.) | 74 | 1 | 75 |
| Other industries | 127 | 59 | 186 |
| TOTAL INDUSTRIES | 2191 | 297 | 2488 |

SERVICES

| | | | |
|--|------|------|------|
| Transport and communications | 155 | 29 | 184 |
| Building, Civil Engineering and contracting .. | 521 | 25 | 546 |
| Distributive trades | 251 | 288 | 539 |
| National and Local Government Service .. | 165 | 21 | 186 |
| Professional, Banking and Finance Services .. | 124 | 310 | 434 |
| Hotel and Catering Services | 64 | 135 | 199 |
| Domestic Service (Resident and Non-Resident) | 192 | 512 | 704 |
| Laundries | 26 | 64 | 90 |
| Other Services | 61 | 38 | 99 |
| TOTAL SERVICES | 1559 | 1422 | 2981 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 3750 | 1719 | 5469 |

3. Approximate percentage of male and female workers over 18 years of age who were registered as unemployed.

| 1952 | Men | Women |
|-------------------|-----|-------|
| March | 1.6 | 0.9 |
| June | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| September | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| December | 2.0 | 1.2 |

GENERAL REMARKS.

The health of the area has been satisfactory throughout the year.

The incidence of infectious disease was unusually low.

The population has again increased and is now estimated at 24,060.

The death rate is almost unchanged and is a little higher than the national figure. The standardised death rate, that is the death rate after application of the comparability factor which makes allowance for differing age and sex distribution in different areas, is considerably lower than the National figure.

The birth rate fell for the fifth successive year but still remains higher than that for England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate showed a sharp rise after last year's record low figure.

The housing situation remains a matter for concern.

The Fordingbridge Sewerage Scheme has made rapid strides.

In conclusion, I wish again to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and encouragement, the Clerk for his advice and guidance, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

D. J. N. McNAB,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1953.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1952 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| <i>Premises</i> | <i>Number on Register</i> | <i>Number of</i> | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | <i>Inspections</i> | <i>Written Notices</i> | <i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 31 | 35 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 122 | 101 | — | — |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 153 | 136 | — | — |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars | No. of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temp.(S.3) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inad. ventilation (S.4) .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences(S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) insufficient .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| (b) unsuitable or defective | — | — | — | — | — |
| (c) not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-workers) .. | 6 | 6 | — | — | — |
| TOTAL .. | 6 | 6 | — | — | — |

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

| <i>Nature of work</i> | <i>Section 110</i> | | | <i>Section 111</i> | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | <i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i> | <i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i> | <i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i> | <i>No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises</i> | <i>Notices served</i> | <i>Prosecutions</i> |
| Wearing (Making, etc.) apparel | 34 | — | — | — | — | — |

RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1952

*Public Offices,
Ringwood.
July, 1953.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, dealing with work carried out by my Department during the year 1952.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Water Supplies | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 133 |
| Shops Act | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 65 |
| Nuisances and Complaints | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 921 |
| Milk and Dairies | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 47 |
| Factories Act | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 136 |
| Meat and Foods | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 506 |
| Slaughtermens' Licences | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 |
| Food and Drugs | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 597 |
| Watercress Beds | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Licensed Premises | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 24 |
| Infectious Diseases | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| Housing Acts | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 296 |
| Moveable Dwellings | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 233 |
| Gipsy Encampments (excluding complaints) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Miscellaneous | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 70 |
| Petroleum and Carbide | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 119 |
| Services administered by the Council | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1200 |
| Building Byelaws | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1324 |
| Building Licences | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 125 |
| Small Dwelling Licences | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 104 |
| Housing Estates | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3232 |
| Town Planning | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 279 |
| Dangerous Buildings | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| National Assistance Act | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Civil Defence (Shelters) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| | | | | | | 9486 |

COMPLAINTS.

115 complaints of nuisances were received during the year involving a total of 921 visits and inspections—details are as follows:

| <i>Nature of Nuisance</i> | <i>Complaints received</i> | <i>Number of visits</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Insanitary conditions | 28 | 216 |
| Unsatisfactory and insufficient water supplies | 9 | 104 |
| Overcrowding | 2 | 4 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Gipsy encampments | 1 | 12 |
| Dust, effluvia or smoke | 2 | 12 |
| Bug, flea or fly infestations | 2 | 20 |
| Offensive smells | 8 | 42 |
| Offensive accumulations | 2 | 18 |
| Cesspools and drains | 10 | 94 |
| Milk and Dairies | 1 | 11 |
| Rats and Mice | 40 | 309 |
| Animals | 2 | 44 |
| Miscellaneous | 8 | 35 |
| | <hr/> 115 | <hr/> 921 |

Where a local authority is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, it must serve a notice in accordance with Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936 requiring the abatement of the nuisance. The Act does not require the service of an informal notice but it is the general practice for such a notice to be issued; the majority of nuisances are remedied as a result of informal action.

A serious nuisance caused by fumes from the cupola and dust at a local foundry was dealt with informally. The yard was subsequently surfaced and a Hot blast system installed for extracting fumes and gases from the cupola.

WATER SUPPLIES.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number of visits and inspections made (excluding visits following complaints) | 133 |
| Number of samples collected | 45 |
| Number of samples unsatisfactory | 16 |
| Number of statutory notices served | 6 |
| Houses connected to main supply as result of Informal Notices | 5 |
| Houses connected to main supply as result of Statutory Notices | — |
| Houses provided with wholesome supplies other than mains as a result of Statutory or Informal Notices | 25 |

SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY COUNCIL.

| <i>Service</i> | <i>Visits made</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Refuse Disposal | 309 |
| Sewage Disposal | 516 |
| Public Conveniences | 221 |
| Cattle Pound | 14 |
| Car Parks | 64 |
| Ditching | 48 |
| Street Name Plates | 4 |
| Miscellaneous | 24 |
| | <hr/> 1200 |

SEWERAGE.

RINGWOOD SEWERAGE.

The four pumps at Bickerley and Moortown Pumping Stations were found to require major overhaul. Bickerley No. 1 Pump was overhauled early in the year but the remaining pumps could not be dealt with until the necessary replacement parts arrived. Although the manufacturers were informed that the parts were urgently required and were reminded of this on several occasions the replacements have only just arrived—some 15 months from the date of ordering. These delays are quite usual with the firm in question and add to the difficulties of maintaining efficiently the pumping equipment.

Several failures in the main electricity supply occurred during the year and on one occasion caused the sewers to overflow.

Land irrigation at the Sewage Disposal Works continues to be difficult during periods of heavy rainfall.

The appointment of a foreman in place of Mr. E. Green remains deferred pending the completion of the Fordingbridge Sewerage Scheme. The death of Mr. J. Rimington, acting foreman, occurred suddenly on Easter Monday—he was taken ill whilst on duty at the Pumping Station that day.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTIONS.

The Hampshire Cleansing Service carry out, on behalf of the Council, bi-weekly collections in the lighting area of Fordingbridge covering some 380 premises. The night soil is conveyed to the Ringwood Sewage Disposal Works where it is composted and sold.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS.

The Council undertakes a combined collection of household and unburnable refuse weekly in the lighting areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. A collection of unburnable refuse only is carried out monthly in the remainder of the district. Receptacles have to be placed outside the premises as near as practicable to the roadway along which the collection vehicle proceeds.

The Council's vehicles covered a total mileage of 16,143 in connection with the collection of refuse.

Two old vehicles were replaced by new ones during the year—the 1934 Morris 5 cwt. van by a Ford 5 cwt. van and the Fordson lorry by a Karrier Bantam Refuse Collection Vehicle.

The following Schedule showing collection days is produced for the information of Councillors :—

WEEKLY SERVICE.

Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Addison Square, Bickerley, Carvers Lane, Christchurch Road, The Close, College Road, Collins Lane, Coniston Road, Coxstone Lane, Deweys Lane, Duck Island, Fridays Cross, Hightown Road from Christchurch Road to Parsonage Barn Lane, Kings Arms Lane, Kingsbury Lane, Lynes Lane, Market Place, Meeting House Lane, Middle Lane, Mount Pleasant, New Street, Northumberland Court, Nursery Road, Quomp, Riverside, School Lane, Star Lane, Strides Lane, Southampton Road from Fridays Cross to Mount Pleasant, Southfield, Top Lane, West Street, Woodstock Lane. | } Every Monday |
|--|----------------|

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Beechcroft Lane, Broadshard Lane, Cadogan Road, Cloughs Road, Eastfield Lane, East View Road, Fairlie Park, Fairlie Estate, Gipsy Lane, Gravel Lane, Highfield Road, Hightown Road from Parsonage Barn Lane to Eastfield Lane, Hilton Road, Hurst Corner, Hurst Road, Manor Road, Meadow Road, Merryweather Estate, Middleton Road, Morant Road, Northfield Road, North Poulner Road, Parsonage Barn Lane, Salisbury Road, Seymour Road, Southampton Road from Mount Pleasant to Eastfield Lane, Wessex Estate, Wessex Road, Westbury Road. | } Every Tuesday |
|---|-----------------|

Lighting Area of the Parish of Fordingbridge.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Albion Road, Alexandra Road, Ashford Road, Back Street, The Bartons, Bowerwood Road, Bridge Street, Church Street, Green Lane, High Street, Horseport, Jubilee Road, Lower Bartons, Market Place, Park Road, Pennys Lane, Provost Street, Roundhill, Salisbury Road, Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury Street, Station Road, St. George's Road, The Square, Victoria Road, Waverley Road, Whitsbury Road. | } Every Wednesday |
|---|-------------------|

MONTHLY SERVICE.

| <i>The whole of the Parishes of</i> | <i>in every month</i> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury | Second Thursday |
| Woodgreen and Hale | Second Thursday |
| St. Leonards and St. Ives | First Thursday |
| Ellingham (including the areas of Blashford, Rockford, Highwood, Linwood, Linford and Shobley) | Third Thursday |
| Harbridge and Ibsley (including the areas of South Gorley, Furzehill, Mockbeggar, Ibsley, Harbridge Green, Bleak Hill and Turner) | Third Thursday |
| Ringwood (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of North Poulner, Hangersley, Hightown, Crow, Crow Hill, Moortown, Kingston, Sandford and Bisterne) | Fourth Thursday |
| Damerham and Breamore | First Friday |
| Fordingbridge (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of Burgate, Sandleheath, Bickton, North Gorley, Ogdens, Hungerford, Hyde, Frogham, Stuckton, Blissford and Godshill) | Second Friday |
| Sopley (including the area of Avon, Ripley and Shirley) | First Friday |
| Hurn (including the areas of Parley Green and East Parley) | First Friday |
| Christchurch East (including the areas of Winkton, Burton, Bransgore, Neacroft, Thorneyhill and Hinton). | Third Friday |
| Burley (including the area of Burley Street) | Fourth Friday |

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The following summary shews the amount of refuse collected throughout the district during the past four years.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Ashley Dump</i> | <i>Verwood Road Dump</i> | <i>Sandleheath Dump</i> |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1952 .. | 6,307 cu. yds. | 390 cu. yds. | 3,127 cu. yds. |
| 1951 .. | 7,413 „ | | 3,272 „ |
| 1950 .. | 6,008 „ | | 2,857 „ |
| 1949 .. | 4,625 „ | | 2,282 „ |

The Ashley Refuse Dump caught fire in June and efforts of the Fire Service proved unsuccessful. The fire was eventually brought under control at the end of August, after many weeks continuous work with a mechanical excavator and water jets supplied from the river by means of a major Fire Service pump.

The surface of this dump was subsequently levelled and covered and tipping was commenced in December at the new refuse dump situate off the Verwood Road.

STREET CLEANSING.

The cleansing of streets in the town areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge has been maintained during the year; the workmen employed on this work are only available after the completion of their refuse collection duties.

Special cleansing of the Market Place and High Street, Ringwood is necessary following the weekly Wednesday market.

CAR PARKS.

The Ringwood Car Park was extended during the year by surfacing the front portion of the grassland. The total surfaced area now provides parking space for some 103 cars and when the remaining grassland is similarly treated the total park should accommodate 160 cars.

SALVAGE.

Salvage Sales for the year amounted to £937 11s. 9d.—details are shown in the following summary:—

| | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Cwts.</i> | <i>Qtrs.</i> | <i>lbs.</i> | <i>No.</i> | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-----|----|----|
| Waste Paper .. | 82 | 10 | 2 | 0 | | 775 | 12 | 5 |
| Ferrous Metals .. | 13 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | 55 | 14 | 7 |
| Non-ferrous metals | | 7 | 3 | 3 | | 22 | 17 | 4 |
| Textiles .. | 2 | 17 | 0 | 14 | | 79 | 1 | 0 |
| Bones .. | | 2 | 0 | 18 | | | 12 | 5 |
| Batteries .. | | | | | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Syphons .. | | | | | 11 | | 11 | 0 |
| | 98 | 19 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 937 | 11 | 9 |

Salvage Sales for previous years are shown below: the sales for the years 1942 and 1943 included large book drives.

| | | | | | £ |
|------|----|----|----|----|------|
| 1941 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 414 |
| 1942 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1208 |
| 1943 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1089 |
| 1944 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 908 |
| 1945 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 574 |
| 1946 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 495 |
| 1947 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 342 |
| 1948 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 949 |
| 1949 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 740 |
| 1950 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 608 |
| 1951 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1674 |

Revenue from salvage steadily decreased during the year as the prices payable by the merchants fell. The price for baled newspaper for instance dropped from £22 15s. 0d. per ton to £6 10s. 0d. per ton.

The demand at the Mills for waste paper fell off and during the summer months recovery of paper exceeded requirements.

The following table illustrates the drop in waste paper prices:

| <i>Item of Salvage</i> | | | | | <i>Price paid by merchants December, 1951</i> | <i>Price paid by merchants December, 1952</i> |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| Baled Waste Paper | .. | .. | .. | | £16 per ton | £5 10s. per ton |
| Unbaled Waste Paper | .. | .. | .. | | £13 per ton | £3 0s. per ton |
| Baled Books and Magazines | .. | .. | | | £20 15s. per ton | £6 per ton |
| Unbaled Books and Magazines | .. | .. | | | £16 15s. per ton | £6 per ton |
| Baled Newspaper | .. | .. | .. | | £22 15s. per ton | £6 10s. per ton |
| Unbaled Newspaper | .. | .. | .. | | £18 5s. per ton | £6 10s. per ton |
| Meal Bags | .. | .. | .. | | £16 0s. per ton | £5 10s. per ton |
| Office Waste | .. | .. | .. | | £15 0s. per ton | £8 0s. per ton |

The price of heavy iron and light iron remained unchanged at £4 5s. 0d. and £2 10s. 0d. per ton respectively.

The Council continued to operate the scheme in collaboration with the schools in the district whereby savings stamps are presented in exchange for waste paper.

The total amount of paper collected from the schools during the year amounted to 11 tons 19 cwt.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The cleanliness of the conveniences at Ringwood has been maintained as satisfactorily as possible; abuse by the public still continues.

The Council contributes towards the cost of maintaining conveniences for use by the public at the Lamb Inn, Ringwood, the Greyhound Hotel and the New Inn, Fordingbridge.

HOUSING.

HOUSING ACT, 1949—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

One application for an Improvement Grant in respect of two cottages was received during the year.

The Act provides for financial assistance to private owners for the improvement of existing houses and the provision of dwellings by works of conversion. In order to rank for an Improvement Grant the dwelling must provide satisfactory housing accommodation for at least 30 years and conform with the Ministry's standards.

It is obvious that this Act has not produced the number of applications envisaged which is unfortunate as the scheme would have benefitted tenants, landlords and local authorities. Tied and 'service' cottages are now made eligible for grant by the Housing Act, 1952.

Compliance with the Ministry's standard is impossible so far as many older types of properties are concerned; in the past applications have been rejected by the Ministry because of insufficient height of rooms.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

Routine house to house inspections were not carried out but inspections made upon receipt of complaints resulted in the service of 25 informal notices. 6 inspections were made in connection with overcrowding.

The problem of satisfactorily dealing with the many unfit houses in the district remains unsolved. I have drawn attention to this in my Reports for 1950 and 1951. The cost of repairs has increased threefold since 1939 but rents remain at pre-war levels. It would appear that the present progressive deterioration of properties can only be arrested by new legislation as it is quite impossible properly to enforce the repair section of the Housing Act, 1936 until some equitable answer is found to this complicated problem and each year's delay results in an increase in the number of houses beyond repair and which become suitable only for demolition.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS.

Statutory action was taken under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of five dwelling houses rendered dangerous as a result of structural defects. Application was made to the court of summary jurisdiction and the necessary Orders were granted by the justices.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

ANIMAL CARCASSES.

Routine inspections of all animals slaughtered were continued throughout the year at the Ministry of Food Slaughter House at Ringwood, involving the detailed examination of all carcasses and offal. 436 visits were made for this purpose.

The total number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughter House was 4,166 made up as follows:—

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|-------|
| Cattle excluding cows | .. | .. | 689 |
| Cows | .. | .. | 279 |
| Calves | .. | .. | 538 |
| Sheep and Lambs | .. | .. | 2019 |
| Pigs | .. | .. | 641 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 4166 |

As a result of these examinations 25,458 lbs. of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption; diseases and weights are:—

| <i>Disease or condition</i> | <i>Weight in lbs.</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuberculosis | 10232 |
| Distomatosis | 4712 |
| Fevered | 3024 |
| Abscess | 961 |
| Septicaemia | 911 |
| Septic Mastitis | 820 |
| Dropsy | 753 |
| Moribund | 718 |
| Bruising | 382 |
| Physicked | 377 |
| Actino Bacillosis | 322 |
| Leukaemia | 266 |
| C. Bovis | 195 |
| Pyæmia | 159 |
| Cirrhosis | 117 |
| Telangiectasis | 583 |
| Swine Fever | 103 |
| Uraemia | 100 |
| Emaciation | 98 |
| Actinomycosis | 88 |
| Immaturity | 88 |
| Hydatid Cyst | 79 |
| Joint Ill | 64 |
| Fatty Infiltration | 64 |
| Enteritis | 53 |
| Peritonitis | 24 |
| Pericarditis | 24 |
| Fatty Necrosis | 21 |
| Inflammation | 17 |
| Deformity | 14 |
| Cloudy Swelling | 13 |
| Oedema | 11 |
| Pneumonia | 9 |
| Swine Erysipelas | 27 |
| Arthritis | 18 |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Pleurisy | 4 |
| Hydronephrosis | 3 |
| Haemorrhage | 2 |
| Tumour | 2 |

25,458

The following summary shows the amounts of meat condemned during the previous five years:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1951 | 35,911 lbs. |
| 1950 | 50,307 lbs. |
| 1949 | 33,227 lbs. |
| 1948 | 19,218 lbs. |
| 1947 | 20,992 lbs. |

OTHER FOODS.

70 visits were made in connection with the examination of foodstuffs at food shops and stores, the quantities found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered were as follows:—

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Reindeer | 64 lbs. |
| Pork | 77½ lbs. |
| Beef | 83 lbs. |
| Lamb | 3 lbs. |
| Liver | 5 lbs. |
| Pork Luncheon Meat | 41 tins |
| Stewed Steak | 11 tins |
| Pork Sausages | 4 lbs. |
| Sheeps Tongues | 2 tins |
| Pork Kidneys | 2 tins |
| Veal and Ham Loaf | 4 tins |
| Jellied Veal | 6 tins |
| Cooked Ham | 14 tins |
| Minced Beef Loaf | 2 tins |
| Cooked Pork Butts | 1 tin |
| Pork Brawn | 1 tin |
| Braised Sliced Liver | 1 tin |
| Braised Kidney | 1 tin |
| Fish Cakes | 9 doz. |
| Sardines | 1 tin |
| Prawns | 1 tin |
| Pilchards | 1 tin |
| Salmon | 2 tins |
| Crab | 1 tin |
| Haddock | 42 lbs. |
| Brisling | 1 tin |
| Cod Fillets | 6 stone |
| Shrimps | 48 tins |
| Anchovies | 29 tins |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|----|-----|-------|
| Paste | .. | .. | .. | 9 | jars |
| Milk | .. | .. | .. | 294 | jars |
| Fruit | .. | .. | .. | 7 | jars |
| Fruit | .. | .. | .. | 158 | tins |
| Jam | .. | .. | .. | 8 | tins |
| Tomatoes | .. | .. | .. | 6 | tins |
| Fruit Pudding | .. | .. | .. | 1 | No. |
| Dates | .. | .. | .. | 1 | box |
| Rice | .. | .. | .. | 3 | lbs. |
| Mincemeat | .. | .. | .. | 1 | tin |
| Soup | .. | .. | .. | 17 | tins |
| Baked Beans | .. | .. | .. | 15 | tins |
| Vegetables | .. | .. | .. | 27 | tins |
| Pickles | .. | .. | .. | 4 | jars |
| Cheese | .. | .. | .. | 18 | lbs. |
| Cheese | .. | .. | .. | 19 | boxes |
| Spaghetti | .. | .. | .. | 1 | tin |
| Desiccated cocoanut | .. | .. | .. | 6 | lbs. |

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, 19 licences were issued to slaughtermen. Two slaughter house licences were renewed and 1 knacker's yard licence.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

597 inspections were made in connection with food premises as follows:—

| | <i>Food Shops</i> | <i>Bake-houses</i> | <i>Restaurant kitchens</i> | <i>Ice-cream Premises</i> | <i>Preserved Food Premises</i> | <i>Market Stalls</i> | <i>Miscellaneous</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| No. on Register | 163 | 18 | 26 | 84 | 39 | | |
| Inspections | 122 | 28 | 51 | 70 | 37 | 324 | 7 |

An application received from a grocery firm under Section 14 of this Act for registration of premises for the cooking and preparation of ham for sale was refused as the proposed cooking room was considered unsatisfactory.

LICENSED PREMISES.

24 inspections of licensed premises were made during the year, particular regard being paid to sanitary accommodation and rooms used for the preparation of food.

ICE CREAM.

42 samples of Ice Cream were collected during the year for bacteriological examination and methylene blue test involving 43 visits. The samples were graded by the Bacteriologist as follows:

| | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|
| Grade 1 | .. | .. | .. | 31 |
| Grade 2 | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Grade 3 | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Grade 4 | .. | .. | .. | — |
| No test | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| | | | | — |
| | | | | 42 |

Under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, no bacteriological standards are officially laid down for Ice Cream. The Ministry has, however, indicated that though there is no known test sufficiently reliable for use as a statutory test of its contamination with non-pathogenic organisms bacteriological tests may usefully be employed as an indication of possible faulty methods although no test has yet been devised of the safety of Ice Cream. Plate count, presence or absence of presumptive *B. coli* and standardised methylene blue reduction tests are the methods most used by bacteriologists.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

| | | |
|---|---------|----|
| Number of Registered Distributors | .. | 10 |
| New Registrations made during the year | | — |
| Inspections made | | 47 |
| Informal Notices served | | 1 |
| Samples of Milk collected | | 32 |
| Samples of milk bottle rinses collected | .. | — |

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The Council exercise the functions of the County Council respecting the issue of licences in respect of pasteurising and sterilizing establishments.

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district licensed to retail Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised).

Four Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" were issued during the year.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Six Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" were issued during the year.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS.

| | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| No. of licensed movable dwelling sites on register | | 85 |
| No. of licensed movable dwellings (other than sites) on register | | 11 |
| No. of inspections made | | 233 |
| Applications for licences received during the year | | 34 |
| No. of applications refused | | 4 |

GIPSY CAMPS.

There are a number of gipsy encampments in the district, including one on Forestry Commission Land. Four inspections were made during the year (excluding visits following complaint).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Inspections made | 12 |
| Premises disinfected | 4 |
| Library books destroyed | — |

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

| | |
|--|---|
| Premises disinfested by Council (bugs and fleas) | 1 |
|--|---|

SHOPS ACT.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Number on Register | 283 |
| Inspections made | 65 |

The District Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

Six Certificates of Exemption respecting sanitary accommodation were issued under Section 38.

FACTORIES ACT.

The District Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories and the provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in those factories not using mechanical power.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Number on Register | 153 |
| Inspections made | 136 |

SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS.

The Council have now adopted Section 86 of the Public Health Acts—Amendment Act, 1907, and appointed certain Police Officers as duly authorised officers.

Every person who is carrying on a business as a dealer in old metal or as a marine store dealer must register with the local authority and must keep a book shewing full details and prices of all articles purchased or acquired and the name and address of the person from whom they are acquired.

Two dealers are registered under this Section.

RATS AND MICE.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and Regulations made thereunder are enforceable by local authorities who are required to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that the district is free from rats and mice.

No rodent operatives are employed. Inspections are made upon receipt of complaints and disinfestation works carried out wherever necessary.

The rat poisons used by the department in the past, i.e. Zinc Phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, Red Squill and Antu have now been replaced by Warfarin. This poison induces haemorrhage and destroys the ability of blood to clot or coagulate and rats feeding on bait containing Warfarin eventually die painlessly.

This new technique of rodent control possesses many advantages over other methods; continuous baiting can be employed and as materials are undetectable by rats and mice colonies of rodents continue feeding until the last mouse or rat is dead. Anti-coagulant baits are relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals as even a large single dose can do little harm.

Warfarin master mix as purchased contains only 0.1 per cent. Warfarin and is based on oatmeal, this master mix must be blended with medium oatmeal in the proportions of 1 to 19.

Under this method pre-baiting is no longer necessary and complainants can be supplied with the ready-to-use bait and instructions for its use thus simplifying work of disinfestation. As a result of this the Council has agreed that no charge shall now be made for disinfestation at domestic premises.

40 complaints were received of infested premises involving 309 visits.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT, PETROLEUM MIXTURES AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Premises on register | 92 |
| Inspections made | 119 |

BUILDING BYELAWS.

PLANS.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of plans received | 361 |
| Number of plans approved | 254 |
| Number of plans—no objection | 78 |
| Number of plans rejected | 21 |
| Number of cases where relaxation of Byelaws granted | 8 |

INSPECTIONS.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Inspection of foundations | 273 |
| Inspections of damp proof courses .. | 261 |
| Number of water tests applied | 369 |
| Inspections of completed works | 261 |
| Miscellaneous inspections | 160 |

CONTRAVENTIONS.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Contraventions of Building Byelaws .. | 42 |
| Number of informal notices served .. | 35 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served .. | 1 |
| Number of notices complied with .. | 32 |

In November the Ministry of Housing and Local Government produced new model Building Byelaws for adoption by all local authorities. The Ministry stated that the new Byelaws take account of current knowledge of building technique and materials; that they allow a great flexibility and more freedom in the use of new materials and methods and that only in exceptional circumstances would local authorities' existing Byelaws be kept in force after 30th June, 1953. A special sub-committee has been appointed to consider the question of revised byelaws for this district.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.

The department deals with development applications and maintains the Planning Register and Planning Index Maps.

Much time is spent in interviewing callers and advising on planning matters generally.

During the year 279 visits and inspections were made.

ESTATES MAINTENANCE.

At the 31st December, 1952 the Council had a total of 1,003 occupied dwellings made up as shewn below; the maintenance of these scattered estates has become a formidable task.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Permanent Houses | 551 |
| Prefabricated Houses | 50 |
| Requisitioned Houses (family units) .. | 29 |
| Converted Huts (family units) | 373 |

Number of visits made in connection with maintenance works:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Permanent Houses | 2055 |
| Prefabricated Bungalows | 217 |
| Requisitioned Houses | 142 |
| Converted Huts | 761 |
| Other Council property | 57 |

At the end of the year the position regarding this Council's occupied family units in converted huts was as follows:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Holmsley (Christchurch East Parish) .. | 59 |
| Ibsley (Harbridge and Ibsley Parish) .. | 125 |
| Ibsley (Ellingham Parish) | 15 |
| Hurn (Hurn Parish) | 95 |
| Hurn (Sopley Parish) | 69 |
| Godshill (Fordingbridge Parish) | 3 |
| Ashley (St. Leonards and St. Ives Parish) | 7 |

373

The 373 family units are housed in 290 huts of seven different types of construction, i.e. Thorne, Laing, Maycrete, Handcraft, Nissen, Timber and Brick (4½ in.).

A survey of the occupied huts was carried out during the year to ascertain the extent and cause of the dampness about which so many tenants had complained.

The serious dampness in huts was found to be due to rain penetration through external walls and to internal condensation; in the huts with 4½in. brick walls there was frequently a combination of these two forms of dampness. As the result of experiments it was decided to weatherproof the walls of the worst huts with Permacote—a liquid perspex emulsion paint—and the results have been most satisfactory.

The huts provide only sub-standard accommodation and the condition of the fabric of many indicates that the useful life of these is ending.

I presented a detailed report to the Housing Committee in May, 1952 on the Huttred Camp Sites and as a result a system was put into operation of inspecting vacated huts before re-letting, condemning those in poor condition and up-grading existing tenants from poorer huts wherever possible.

BUILDING LICENCES.

| | |
|---|---------|
| No. of repair licence applications received | 142 |
| No. of repair licence applications approved | 109 |
| No. of repair licence applications refused | 14 |
| Total value of repair licences issued | £36,041 |
| Total number of inspections and visits made | 125 |

The “free allowance” for properties was increased from £100 to £200 on the 1st July, 1952, the allowance for “designated buildings” remaining at £500. These allowances were further increased to £500 and £2,000 respectively for the year commencing the 1st January, 1953.

SMALL DWELLING LICENCES.

| | |
|--|-----|
| No. of Small Dwelling Licence Applications on register at 1.1.52 | 99 |
| No. of Small Dwelling Licence Applications received during the year | 52 |
| No. of Small Dwelling Licences Authorised | 125 |
| No. of Small Dwelling Licences issued | 49 |
| No. of Dwellings completed | 18 |
| Total number of dwellings for which licences have been authorised by the Council to 31.12.52 | 307 |
| Total number of dwellings for which licences have been issued by the Council to 31.12.52(including 14 withdrawn or rendered inoperative during years 1945/46 | 230 |
| Number of dwellings completed to 31.12.52 | 175 |
| Number of dwellings in course of erection | 26 |
| Number of dwellings not yet commenced but licences still operative | 14 |
| Number of inspections and visits made | 104 |

In December 1952 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government announced "that the Government have decided that in 1953 private enterprise can be given the opportunity to make a bigger contribution to the expanding national housing effort than has been practicable up to the present, without risk to the continuance of the programme of houses for letting."

As from the 1st January, 1953 licences to build—subject to planning and byelaw consents and the usual conditions—can be issued to any person who wishes to build a house of not more than 1,000 sq. ft. and to any builder who wishes to build up to 12 houses of not more than 1,000 sq. ft.

Applications for licences to build houses between 1,000 and 1,500 sq. ft. are still to be encouraged and considered on their merits.

In this district very few new applicants are coming forward and many applicants who have been awaiting licences are now refusing them. The high cost of building and the difficulty in raising capital appear to be the major factors involved.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

RESCUE SECTION.

In July the Home Office announced that the Pioneer and Rescue Sections were to be amalgamated, the combined section to be known as the Rescue Section.

The duties of the Pioneer Section were originally laid down as follows: debris clearance; demolition; emergency repairs to houses and utility services; road clearance; decontamination of highways, vehicles and clothing; cleansing of uninjured persons; stretcher bearing; salvage.

Some of these duties can more appropriately be carried out by the Works and Buildings Emergency Organisation under the control of the District Council.

The position regarding the Rescue Section remains most unsatisfactory; the number of volunteers enrolled is 5.

AIR RAID SHELTERS.

The Home Office has intimated that good existing shelters are to be retained and that the District Council is responsible for the structural safety of the shelters which remain. There are in this district 5 public shelters, 11 communal shelters and 51 individual shelters.

STAFF.

Several changes in staff occurred during the year; Miss Holloway who had been in the department 9 years left on the occasion of her marriage; Mr. Scott, general clerk, took up an appointment in Nyasaland and the two additional Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. S. Maher and Mr. E. M. Organ accepted appointments with the Yiewsley and West Drayton Urban District Council and the Guildford Rural District Council respectively. The positions of general clerk and one additional Sanitary Inspector were not filled.

CONCLUSION.

I am indebted to Miss Hilary Christy of 44 Christchurch Road, Ringwood for monthly records of rainfall which she has supplied for many years.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council and particularly to the members of my Committees and the staff of my department for their co-operation and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD A. UPSTONE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.